

SENATE BILL 3549

By Herron

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 58 and Title 68, relative to outbreaks and
pandemics of certain communicable diseases.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 58-2-101, is amended by deleting subdivision (6) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following as a new subdivision (6):

(6) "Emergency" means an occurrence, or threat thereof, whether natural, technological, or manmade, in war or in peace, which results or may result in substantial injury or harm to the population, or substantial damage to or loss of property; provided, that natural threats may include disease outbreaks and epidemics;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-1-201(b), amended by adding the following language at the end of the subsection:

Whenever the commissioner determines that an influenza outbreak may pose a threat of an epidemic, the commissioner shall prepare and carry into effect such rules and regulations as, in the commissioner's judgment, will, with the least inconvenience to commerce and travel, prevent the spread of the disease.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

68-1-204.

In the event that an emergency or disaster as defined in Section 58-2-101, occurs that involves outbreaks of disease that present a danger of an epidemic, the commissioner shall make appropriate recommendations to the governor for actions under this title and title 58, chapter 2, to allocate all available health care resources in the

affected areas for immediate and long-term health care needs of the affected populations.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.